

TENDRING
Rural Sanitary Authority.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

CLACTON-ON-SEA :
PRINTED BY A. QUICK AND Co., "NEWS", OFFICES.

1894.

TENDRING
Rural Sanitary Authority.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

CLACTON-ON-SEA :
PRINTED BY A. QUICK AND CO., "NEWS", OFFICES,

—
1894.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3018096x>

TO THE

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

OF THE

TENDRING UNION.

COLCHESTER,

2nd February, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1893; and to state that in the twenty-nine parishes composing the district under your charge, there was an increase of 296 in the population. The area consists of 76,324 acres, the population being 24,034, as per 1891 census, while the estimated population to the middle of 1893 is 25,002.

There were during the year 679 births and 383 deaths registered in the district.

The deaths resulted from the following causes :

Diseases.	No. of Deaths.	No. under 5 years of age.
Measles	4	3
Scarlet Fever	2	1
Diphtheria	16	7
Membranous Croup	2	1
Whooping Cough	7	7
Typhoid Fever	4	1
Diarrhœa	6	3
Erysipelas	1	—
Phthisis	37	3
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	61	25
Heart Disease	20	—
Injuries	13	2
All other Diseases	210	72
	383	125

The total number of deaths is considerably less than last year, but the number under 5 years of age is greater. The death rate for the entire district is 15·31 per 1000 of the estimated

population, against 17·6 last year, while in 1891 it was 16·4. The death-rate under 5 years, is 4·99 per 1000 of the estimated population; the infantile death-rate equals 120·76 per 1000 children born; and the death-rate from zymotic diseases 1·67 per 1000 of the population.

In the sub-registration districts the death-rate was :—

Manningtree	...	...	15·74
Thorpe	...	...	18·98
Ardleigh	...	...	12·82 per 1,000.

The various ages at which death took place were :—

82 cases	...	under 1 year
43 „	...	between 1 and 5 years
32 „	...	„ 5 15 „
15 „	...	„ 15 25 „
74 „	...	„ 25 65 „
137		65 years and upwards.

Of those over 65 years

73 passed 70 years.

37 „ 80 „

2 „ 90 „

The greatest age attained was 93 years, which two reached.

During the year there were 59 deaths among paupers, including 26 in the Union Workhouse. Of out-door cases there were 10 in the Manningtree district, 4 in Thorpe, and 19 in Ardleigh. Seven of the deaths in the Workhouse occurred in persons not belonging to the district.

The deaths in the Workhouse were caused by the following diseases, at the various age stated.

Diseases	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	Total
Cystitis							1	1
Chest Diseases			1	1		1	2	5
Epilepsy				1				1
Old Age						4	3	7
Heart Disease						3		3
Bright's Disease							1	1
Cancer				2		1		3
Apoplexy				1		2		3
	1	-	1	6	-	11	7	26

The following table will show the deaths in the various parishes as they took place.

Parish	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Alresford	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Ardleigh	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	1
Beaumont	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Bentley, Great	1	3	3	-	-	2	-	1
Bentley, Little	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bradfield	-	2	2	-	2	2	1	1
Brightlingsea	4	7	3	9	7	8	9	5
Bromley, Great	3	-	5	1	2	5	-	1
Bromley, Little	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Clacton, Little	3	-	-	2	4	1	1	1
Elmstead	1	-	4	1	1	-	-	3
Frating	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Frinton	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Holland, Great	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	-
Holland, Little	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Kirby	2	3	-	2	-	2	1	1
Lawford	2	1	3	3	3	1	2	6
Manningtree	2	1	3	2	-	1	-	5
Mistley	3	2	2	6	3	-	5	3
Oakley, Great	2	3	5	1	2	4	2	-
Oakley, Little	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
Ramsey	3	3	3	6	5	1	3	-
St. Osyth	1	5	2	-	3	1	3	5
Tendring	2	6	11	5	3	1	6	3
Thorpe	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	2
Thorrington	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Weeley	-	1	3	2	2	-	3	1
Wix	2	2	4	4	-	2	3	2
Wrabness	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-
	40	49	62	51	46	40	51	44

Births.

As I have stated, there were 679 births registered in the district during the year ; viz. : 332 boys, and 347 girls.

The birth-rate for the entire district is 27·15 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and in the separate registration districts.

Manningtree	...	..	25·13
Thorpe	...	...	27·87
Ardleigh	...	...	28·21

In 1892 the birth-rate stood at 28·47 for the whole district.

The quarterly table stands thus :—

Quarters	Manningtree District		Thorpe District		Ardleigh District		Totals
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1st	31	25	13	33	36	46	184
2nd	31	23	32	32	38	37	193
3rd	19	24	13	17	40	45	158
4th	23	14	23	19	33	32	144
Totals	104	86	81	101	147	160	679

Sickness.

Although influenza was prevalent in the commencement of the year, there was much less sickness than in 1892, the usual chest affections were likewise less severe, taking the small number of deaths from them as an index, in comparison with the first quarter of the previous year.

Small-pox.

I am glad to be again able to state that no case of small-pox has occurred during the year. I consider this is most fortunate considering the number of tramps that are constantly seen passing through the locality.

Diphtheria.

This disease began to show a marked increase in various parts of the district in the third quarter of 1892, and the increase has gone on steadily, except that in the third quarter of 1893 there was a slight lull. The total number of cases certified were in 1891, 5 ; 1892, 52 ; and 1893, 74. The parishes affected were Great Bentley, Ardleigh, Lawford, Elmstead, Little Bromley, Weeley, Little Clacton, Tendring, St. Osyth, Thorpe, Wix, Manningtree, Mistley, and Great Oakley. In Lawford village (Wignall Street) the disease raged severely, and there were as many as six cases in one cottage. The village was much in want

of a good sewer, and an improved water supply. You have now had a new and properly laid sewer put down, and the improvement to the water supply is in hand. This will be so constructed that contamination by a dirty pail will be impossible. The school-master caught the malady, and the school had to be closed for a number of weeks.

Four cases of this disease were reported to me, and in all probability these were diphtheritic. Membranous
Croup.

There were 46 cases of Erysipelas in 1893, against 16 in 1892, and 6 in 1891. Such prevalence of erysipelas in all parts of the country has been hitherto unknown. Erysipelas.

One hundred and thirty seven cases of scarlet fever were reported during the year; they were very generally of a mild type, and only two deaths occurred. In 1892 there were 63 cases, and in 1891, 53. I believe this large amount of scarlet fever was greatly caused by the Medical Attendant not being called in the first case. Parents are to blame for this, but the cases were so very mild that the disease was not even thought of in many instances. Care in isolating the first case will frequently and generally stop the outbreak. I often find that isolation is not kept up long enough, but that long before desquamation has ceased, the invalid is allowed to mix with the family and to roam all over the house. The affected person ought, in all instances, to be well removed from the rest of the household and no communication, either directly or indirectly, permitted. If this rule were stringently enforced, disinfection and purification could be more thoroughly carried out, and with less inconvenience to the household and expence and trouble to the Authority and its officers. Scarlet Fever.

There have been twenty-two cases of typhoid fever in the district during the year, viz., three in the Manningtree and nineteen in the Ardleigh sub-registration district. Two of these happened at Great Bentley in the month of January; the water in the well was found to be polluted and the well was closed. The disease broke out in the latter days of September in the Lawford end of the town of Manningtree, and in this locality there were nineteen cases before the end of the year. I discovered that almost all those affected had been drinking water from a pump in a cottage yard; on analysis, this water was found to be unfit for use, and the owner had the pump taken away and the supply from the Tendring Hundred Water Company's mains laid on. An isolated case occurred at a farm house in the parish of Lawford nearly two miles from the seat of the other outbreak. From a conversation with the Medical Attendant I am led to think the Typhoid Fever.

illness began with influenza ; I found the sanitary arrangements in a faulty condition and had them altered.

Diarrhœa.

There was no great extent of diarrhœa in the early autumn as frequently happens, and only six deaths were registered from this affection, three of them being under five years of age.

Phthisis.

Thirty-seven deaths took place from phthisis, being 14 in the Manningtree sub-registration district, 12 in the Thorpe, and 11 in the Ardleigh.

Bronchitis, &c.

As I have previously stated, chest affections were much less frequent than in 1892 ; in that year there were 117 deaths from these maladies, whereas in 1893 there were only 61.

Cancer.

Cancer is credited with 11 deaths against 13 in 1892.

Public Health
(Water) Act.

On my recommendation you granted several certificates for newly erected houses under the Public Health (Water) Act. In every case I had carefully examined the water supply.

Infectious
Diseases.

I would draw your attention to the very large number of cases of infectious sickness that occurred in 1893. They reached the number of 283, while in 1892 there were 152, and in 1891, 93. All these had to be investigated by me and separately reported to you, the Local Government Board, and the County Council. It will be readily seen that a vast increase of work had to be got over by me, involving no little time and travelling as well as a considerable augmentation of my out-of-pocket expenses. Some few years ago my salary was on two occasions reduced on the plea that my work would be so very much less. I can only say such has not been the case, but on the contrary, I have yearly found myself called upon to do more. I feel I speak within bounds when I say that the work is tenfold greater than when I took the office 18 years ago.

The infectious sickness rate for the year is 11·31 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The following is a return furnished by the Inspector of Nuisances of work done in the district during the year.

Cottages inspected	...	...	...	31
Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	...	1
Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	...	3
Filthy Houses cleansed	...	...	...	4
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	25
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	1

Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	1
Houses connected with sewers	...	...	26
Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered and w.c.'s repaired			22
Privies and w.c.'s repaired	...	...	6
Samples of water taken for Analysis	...		41
Infected bedding destroyed	...	...	1
Nuisances reported or detected	...	...	66
Nuisances abated	...	...	45
Notices served	...	...	45
Summons taken out	...	...	1
Convictions	...	...	none.

I now add a summary of the work done in each parish also supplied by the Inspector.

A soil pipe ventilating shaft provided. Alresford.

One sink waste pipe made to discharge over a trapped gully. Ardleigh.

One new privy erected.

Three stone ware gullies fixed in place of defective traps.

Three defective privies converted into pail closets.

Accumulation of rubbish removed.

One slaughter house inspected.

Flushing chamber constructed in Dedham Road, and drain with stone-ware gully from it to the pump in Mr. Bigg's slaughter-house put down.

Ditch receiving out-fall sewer cleaned out and levelled through.

Defective urinal at public house removed and a new one Brightlingsea.
erected.

Drain unblocked and repaired and properly trapped.

Two houses connected with sewer.

Part of out-fall sewer near the railway station re-laid.

New brick-in-cement cesspit built to existing privy. Beaumont.

Cesspit emptied.

New 9-inch sewer laid in Nelson Street.

Well properly built up and repaired. Great Holland

Drain unblocked, rain water pipe disconnected from drain.

Accumulation of night soil and cinder dirt removed.

Two brick-in-cement cesspits built and properly covered.

Accumulation of rubbish removed.

A brick-in-cement cesspit constructed, covered and ventilated.

Two cesspits cleaned out, repaired, cemented and covered.

Connections made to sewers to take the drainage of 25 houses. Lawford.

New sewer with manholes laid six hundred yards.
 Brick-in-cement cesspit built, covered, &c.
 Nine cesspits cleaned.
 Three privies converted into pail closets.
 One new pail closet erected.

Lower Kirby. Defective and objectionable privy converted into pail closet.

Manningtree. Brick-in-cement cesspit constructed to existing privy.

Mistley. Privy converted into water closet.

St. Osyth. Two brick-in-cement cesspit built to existing privy.

Two stone-ware gullies fixed in place of defective traps.
 Pig-yard cleaned out.
 Accumulation removed.
 Two houses connected with sewer.

Frinton-on-Sea Manhole covers fixed on precipitating tanks.

Ramsey. Out-fall tank altered so that alumino-ferric can be used.
 Four ash-pits repaired at Parkeston.
 Five privies converted into pail closets.

Thorpe. Cesspit emptied.
 Overcrowding abated.
 One common lodging house inspected.
 Two slaughter houses inspected.

Tendring. In September last you summoned Mr. Cardinall of Tendring before the Magistrates, on account of a nuisance on his cottage property at Tendring Row, caused by soakage from the privy cesspits, whereby the wells were polluted and water rendered unfit for use. The water was analyzed by Dr. Thresh of Chelmsford, who gave evidence as well as myself, and it was very clearly proved that contamination of the water supply existed; but, as we could not but admit that the water might have been polluted by the dead wells, (which had been omitted from the charge), the case was dismissed. Although Mr. Cardinall assured the Magistrates he would lose no time in having the wells closed and a new water supply provided, this has not been done, and the people are still using the water admitted to be unfit for use, and farther so proved by an analysis Mr. Cardinall voluntarily procured in the latter days of October. I brought the matter again before you after the decision of the Bench, when you resolved to allow a fair time for Mr. Cardinall to carry out his promise, and five months having now passed without this being done, it will be my duty to ask you to take the matter up again.

The proposed drainage of the village of Great Bentley has Great Bentley several times been before you during the year, but, as the Local Government Board refuse to sanction any scheme except by land irrigation, no farther progress has been made, and the matter stands as it did twelve months ago.

I have met Dr. Reece, the Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, who made the Cholera survey of this district, on several occasions, and have afforded him such information as he required, besides accompanying him in his inspections. To the best of my knowledge, no report or recommendation has yet been received.

A new Act of Parliament has been passed for the provision of isolation hospitals. The establishment of these institutions has been placed in the hands of the County Council on application. Such application may be made, by petition, by any one or more of the local authorities having jurisdiction in the county, or by any number of ratepayers, not less than twenty-five, in any contributory place as defined by the Act. The County Council may direct an inquiry to be made by the Medical Officer of Health of the county, as to the necessity for the establishment of an isolation hospital, and may act on his report. There can be no doubt that by the combination of districts an efficient hospital could be more economically provided and maintained, and the objection to distance could be overcome by a well arranged ambulance service.

In several of my annual reports, I have spoken about the very imperfect manner in which disinfection after illness is carried out. If the consideration of an isolation hospital should come before you, a better mode of disinfection might also be considered.

On the occurrence of an out-break of infectious sickness in a parish, it is not an uncommon thing for me to receive a request to close the school. To accede to such a request is not always wise, nor is it just to the educational department to do so. When sickness breaks out in a family it is often more prudent to isolate that family by keeping its members away from school and from other children, so that the work of the school can go on. I desire to point out that in adopting this course there is no loss to the school in the way of grant from the government, as under the education code (form 101,* fly leaf), I can certify so that an allowance is made for each child on the list. I should be greatly obliged to teachers and school managers if they would kindly inform me of the first manifestation of sickness, so that I can take immediate steps to protect the school.

Request to
Medical Men.

On visiting a house containing a case of infectious illness, I am often met by a declaration by the mother of her ignorance that such a disease exists in her family, and a statement that her doctor never told her so. My assurance to the contrary is disbelieved until I produce the medical man's certificate. I would ask the medical practitioners in the district to be good enough to tell the parents very plainly what is the matter with the invalid and to enjoin the necessary precautions, as it may be sometime before I can receive the certificate and can visit, and in that time considerable harm might be done. Unless the householder is informed of the existence of the disease, he is unable to carry out the duty imposed on him by the Notification Act of notifying to the Medical Officer of Health.

Factory and
Workshops'
Act.
Outworkers.

I have, on various occasions, reported to you as to the difficulty and almost impossibility of procuring lists of the outworkers in the district under this Act. Firms in the tailoring trade, not only in Colchester but in Ipswich send work into the locality, and I suppose only exhibit the lists in their respective factories in one or other of these towns. I have had correspondence with the Local Government Board and visits from the District Inspector of Factories on this matter, and have clearly explained to them that as the work would occupy so much time, it is impossible for me to undertake it under my present arrangement with you, and have pointed out the first extreme difficulty of procuring the lists. In November last I received a letter from the Local Government Board that the Board was in communication with the Home Office on the subject.

Sewage
Precipitation.

I desire to say a few words in favour of the precipitation of sewage by Spence's Alumino-ferric. The process is remarkably simple, and the little care and trouble required can easily be carried out by an ordinary labourer. By this very simple process, the solids are precipitated in a small tank, and a clear inodorous affluent is passed on, which can be received into any stream as it does not even affect fish life. I have introduced this plan in several of our villages and in the drains of private houses in the country with success, and will be pleased to arrange for any householder wishing to use it.

The returns required by the Local Government Board are appended to this report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. W. COOK, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

A—TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1893, in the Rural Sanitary District of TENDRING, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the pur- pose of these Statistics Public Institutions being shown as sepa- rate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.						Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																								
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Fevers.				Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phtthisis	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL.		
		Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal																										
MANNINGTREE ...	119	26	15	13	4	29	32	... ..	1	... ..	2	... ..	1	... ..	... ..	... ..	3	5	2	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	3	7	... ..	... ..	23	41	78	
THORPE ...	124	21	12	9	5	21	56	... ..	... ..	1	1	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	2	1	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	11	8	... ..	... ..	20	33	91
ARDLEIGH ...	140	35	16	10	6	24	49	... ..	... ..	6	... ..	... ..	1	2	... ..	... ..	1	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	11	10	... ..	... ..	32	51	89	
Totals	383	82	43	32	15	74	137	... ..	1	7	1	... ..	1	3	... ..	... ..	1	... ..	3	7	... ..	3	3	... ..	3	25	... ..	2	72	125	258

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	9	..	1	..	..	5	3	...	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	..	6	8

B—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1893, in the Rural Sanitary District of TENDRING; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Name of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 Or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.												Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.									
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1892.			Fever.												Fever.									
					Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.																										
MANNINGTREE ...	7252	7560	190	Under 5 5 upwards	...	8	14	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
THORPE ...	6342	6530	182	Under 5 5 upwards	...	12	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ARDLEIGH ...	10440	10912	307	Under 5 5 upwards	...	6	12	2	...	19	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	24034	25002	679	Under 5 5 upwards	...	26	14	3	...	22	...	...	...	...	22	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Removed to London in an ambulance.

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes. Since when?—1st Jan., 1891. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—There is no Isolation Hospital, but the Authority have two hospital tents.

